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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CPR-01 DHA-02 AID-05 /064 W
----------132257Z 113562 /73
P 132145Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4816

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3992

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PFOR CI
SUBJ: GOC BOYCOTTS AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL RECEPTION

1. SUMMARY: BY PRESIDENTIAL ORDER, GOC OFFICIALS BOY-
COTTED AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL RECEPTION MAY 12. A HIGHLY RELIABLE
SOURCE STATES THAT REASON IS GOC PIQUE OVER USG FAILURE TO
DESIGNATE SUCCESSOR TO AMBASSADOR POPPER AND SUSPICION WE WILL
NOT DO SO. WE HAD SPECULATED THAT BOYCOTT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DUE TO
GOC DISPLEASURE WITH AMBASSADOR'S RECENT FAREWELL SPEECH AND
INTERVIEWS EXPOUNDING USG HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH IN LOCAL CONTEXT.

END SUMMARY.

2. A FOREIGN MINISTRY BUREAU CHIEF AND THE SENIOR
NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DESK OFFICER WERE THE ONLY MEMBERS OF THE
CHILEAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH ATTENDING THE AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL
RECEPTION MAY 12. THE OTHERWISE COMPLETE BOYCOTT BY 50 INVITED
SENIOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GOC FIGURES WAS NOTICED BY THE
MORE THAN 400 OTHER GUESTS REPRESENTING A VERY BROAD RANGE OF
CHILEAN PERSONALITIES, AND TOP LOCAL DIPLOMATS.

3. A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NOT DIRECTLY IN THE
PRESIDENT'S CHAIN OF COMMAND DID APPEAR, NOTABLY THE LABOR
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, PRESIDENTO OF THE CENTRAL BANK,
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SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA'S CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE, THE
PRESENT AND PAST CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND
VARIOUS LOCAL OFFICIALS.

4. THIS SLIGHT BY THE GOC RECALLS A SIMILAR BOYCOTT OF THE
AMBASSADOR'S JULY 2, 1976 BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION. THAT RECEPTION
TOOK PLACE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE GOC LEARNED OF CONGRESSIONAL

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ACTION ABRUPTLY CUTTING OFF VIRTUALLY ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CHILE. ONE JUNTA MEMBER, AIR FORCE GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, ATTENDED -- PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THE FUTURE OF THE GOC'S F-5E AIRCRAFT PROGRAM WAS AT A CRITICAL STAGE AT THE TIME. FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL AND TOKEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NAVY AND ARMY ALSO ATTENDED.

5. IN SPECULATING ON THE REASONS FOR THE MAY 12 PERFORMANCE, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT PINOCHET MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATING SOME DISPLEASURE OVER THE CONTEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL PUBLIC SPEECH AND INTERVIEWS FEATURED IN THE LOCAL PRESS OVER THE PAST WEEK. (COPIES HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO ARA.) PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY BEEN LAYING SPECIAL STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY AS MOST RECENTLY ENUMERATED IN THE APRIL 30 SPEECH BY SECRETARY VANCE. WHILE THE AMBASSADOR HAS EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN EVIDENT IN RECENT MONTHS, WE KNOW THAT REPEATED REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS ALWAYS ANNOY GOC OFFICIALDOM, AND PARTICULARLY PINOCHET.

6. INQUIRIES BY DATT MORNING MAY 13 DISCLOSED A DIFFERENT MOTIVE. ACCORDING TO A HIGHLY RELIABLE SURCE CLOSE TO A JUNTA MEMBER, PINOCHET ORDERED THE BOYCOTT BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD NOT SOUGHT AN AGREMENT FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR POPPER. REPORTEDLY, PINOCHET WAS CONVINCED THE FAILURE TO DESIGNATE A SUCCESSOR AMBASSADOR IMPLIED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT INTEND TO CONFIDENTIAL

LEAVE THE POST VACANT, AS THE BRITISH HAVE LEFT THEIR AMBASSADORIAL SLOT UNOCCUPIED SINCE THE SHEILA CASSIDY CASE AT THE END OF 1975. WE WERE TOLD THAT PINOCHET THOUGHT IT WOULD BY "CYNICAL" FOR GOC OFFICERS TO ATTEND UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. (WE HAVE RECEIVED A SIMILAR REPORT RE THE BRITISH PRECEDENT FROM U.S. NAVY SOURCES IN VALPARAISO.)

7. WE ARE FRANKLY PERPLEXED BY THIS EXPLANATION. WHILE NO ONE WOULD GIVE PINOCHET HIGH MARKS FOR DIPLOMATIC ASTUTENESS, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT BY SUCH AN ACTION HE WOULD SET THE STAGE FOR A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE SINCE WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPLAINED OUR APPOINTIVE PROCESS TO THE CHILEANS (I DID IT MYSELF TO PINOCHET), AND WE HAD THOUGHT THESE EXPLANATIONS WERE ACCEPTED. WE WILL SEEK FURTHER ELUCIDATION DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS. MEANWHILE, THE EPISODE HAS CAUSED A STIR IN SANTIAGO. IT WILL SURELY BE REPORTED TO OTHER CAPITALS, AND PERHAPS BY NEWS SERVICES.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 2534913
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC BOYCOTTS AMBASSADOR\'S FAREWELL RECEPTION
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, CI, (POPPER, DAVID H)
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Type: TE
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